

AOC NEWSLETTER

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SPRING 1999

Welcome Director Cicely Jaracz Lambert

"I was honored to be considered by Chief Justice Lambert for this position," said Cicely Jaracz Lambert. "Our court system is recognized as a model throughout the nation and I look forward to working with the Chief Justice toward the challenges ahead."

Ms. Lambert received her undergraduate degree in English from Transylvania University and later graduated from the University of Kentucky College of Law in 1982.

She serves on the Court of Justice Task Force on Racial Bias and has served on the Governor's Council on Child Sexual Abuse and Domestic Violence. She and her husband, Jay, have two children, Michael 8, and Rebecca 6. Ms. Lambert will begin work with the AOC on March 8, 1999.

Press Release submitted by:

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End of an Era at AOC:

Paul Isaacs Retires

The beginning was September of 1993, and the end was January 15, 1999. This time frame represents the era in which Paul Isaacs served as director of the Administrative Office of the Courts. Prior to coming to AOC, Paul served as Commissioner of the State Police. He has served in a variety of other state government positions throughout his career.

In his tenure at AOC, Paul established the Total Quality Management (TQM) committee to oversee some of the policies that affect AOC employees. Paul also formed the Strategic Planning Committee. This committee is still in the process of mapping out AOC's mission and overall direction. With committees like these, Paul knows that they will provide a lasting impact on AOC. One of the main objectives that Paul had when he came to AOC was to become a part of the team and to work with the court system. Paul was surely part of the team, and spoke very highly of the AOC staff, saying "AOC has an excellent staff that was always very dignified, and performed their job without looking for any fan far."

In reflecting back over his career Paul commented, the only thing that he may have done differently is responding quicker to issues instead of letting them get hashed out. He recognizes that by stepping in sooner issues could have been resolved more

efficiently. As far as how Paul visualizes in AOC's future, he says, "just keep moving in the same direction." He believes that the staff will not miss a beat with him stepping down.

Asked, what qualities should the next AOC director possess? He stated that the next director should have a firm knowledge of the many systems that make up AOC including but not limited to the court of justice, political, and governmental system. However, the main quality that the new director should possess is an "ability to develop a vision of AOC's future".

The end came as a surprise to many. But Paul has decided to pursue other opportunities in life. Paul has decided to retire from his position as director and enter the political arena where he will attempt to become a circuit judge in the 14th Judicial Circuit. What prompted Paul to run for this judgeship? Well, he assured me that most attorney's have the desire to some day become a judge. Now that he finally has an opportunity, he is going for it. Paul admits that he does not like leaving any position for personal reasons, but in no way regrets his decision.

This is the last go round for Paul Isaacs at AOC, but he said this is not "goodbye." He hopes to be a part of the Court of Justice, possibly as a Circuit Court Judge. Many employees here at AOC will miss Paul's trademark "**good morning**" as he made his way around AOC each day. So from all of us here at AOC, Paul we wish you the best and may God continue to bless you.

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Interview by: John Dobson

Judge Elects Visit AOC!

In the months of November and December new judge-elects visited AOC to familiarize themselves with some of the operations performed here at AOC. The judge-elects did not have time to visit every operation, but most of them gave some information about themselves so that each member of AOC would know a little about them.

On November 17, 1998, **Judith Bartholomew** of the 30th district and **David Burton** of the 34th district started the visits. Judge Bartholomew graduated from the U of L in 1981 with a B.S. in Business Administration and received her law degree from U of L in 1987. She worked as a clerk in before the invention of the district system as it is today, and with the labor cabinet from 1993 to 1997. Judge Bartholomew is really excited about her new position, and looks to stay abreast of the new technological advances.

Judge Burton, who was born in Harlan County, has worked in the private sector for the majority of his life with a short stint with the FDIC in the early 90's. Judge Burton received his degree in Economics from Clemson University in 1968, where he played collegiate football. Judge Burton obtained his law degree from U of L in December 1979. Judge Burton is very satisfied with the tremendous responsibility and trust that has been given to him and hopes that he can stay on the bench until he has decided to retire.

On November 20, 1998, **Bob Heaton** visited AOC. Judge Heaton will preside over cases in the 57th district where he was born. Judge Heaton graduated from St. Louis University with a degree in Political Science, and received his law degree at U of K in 1972. Judge Heaton

worked for the Department of Labor during the early 70's. A goal for Judge Heaton is to enhance the Juvenile Justice System, and really looks forward to trying to make a difference in the judicial system.

Jill Elaine Clark made a trip to AOC on November 24, 1998. Judge Clark's primary district will be the 56th district, which is far from her native state of Indiana. Judge Clark received her undergraduate degree from U of K, where she also received her law degree in 1978. Judge Clark worked with the ex-director of AOC Paul Isaacs as a public advocate in Frankfort, and has also practiced law for 20 years. Judge Clark is looking forward to having a pleasant career as a district court judge.

Also on November 24, **Robert L. Wilson** visited AOC. Judge Wilson will handle cases in the 40th district. Judge Wilson was born in Jamestown and attended Western Kentucky University for undergraduate studies. Judge Wilson obtained his law degree from U of K in 1968. Judge Wilson served as Russell county attorney for eighteen months, before winning his judgeship election. Goals for Judge Wilson include being a fair judge, and expediting cases through the judicial system.

On November 25, 1998 **James Lee Avritt, Jr.** (Jim) made his way to AOC for a brief tour. Judge Avritt will hear cases in the 11th district. Judge Avritt was born in Lebanon, KY and attended Boston College and later Xavier where he obtained his undergraduate degree. Judge Avritt obtained his law degree in 1990 from U of K. Judge Avritt worked as the Assistant County Attorney in Marion County for over seven years. Judge Avritt would like to see confidence restored in the judicial system during his tenure.

Throughout the course of the day on December 1, 1998 **William D. Probus, Donald E. Armstrong, Jr., and Hunter B. Whitesell II** visited

AOC. Judge Probus will handle cases in the 18th district. Judge Probus was born in Louisville, but was primarily raised in Owensboro, KY. Judge Probus graduated from KY South College, which had an arrangement with U of L, in 1965, and later obtained a master's degree in Music. Judge Probus received his law degree from U of K in December of 1974. Judge Probus worked as the county attorney in Harrison County for four terms. Judge Probus has been interested in the judgeship since he began his state career and is very excited about his position. Judge Probus also feels that AOC has an excellent support staff.

Mr. Armstrong, Jr. was born in Louisville and attended Vanderbilt University, where he obtained a degree in Economics. In 1975, Judge Armstrong received his law degree from U of L. Judge Armstrong served as the Assistant Jefferson County Attorney for the past eight years, and has been practicing law for 23 years. Judge Donald Armstrong, Jr., sister of Judge Linda Armstrong, is a third generation lawyer, and is looking forward to this judgeship experience in the 30th district.

Judge Whitesell II, who will preside over cases in the 1st district, has been in practice with his father since 1990. Judge Whitesell II was born in Frankfort, and attended Murray State where he obtained a B.S. in Fine Arts in 1981. Judge Whitesell II has served as the Assistant County Attorney in the 1st Judicial Circuit, as well as a public defender. Judge Whitesell II is looking forward to learning more about his position as he settles into the bench.

William Edward Oliver (Bill) and **Rebecca Sue Ward** visited AOC on December 12, 1998. Judge Oliver was born in Garrard county where he will preside over cases in the 13th district. Judge Oliver served as a Trial Commissioner for seven years in Garrard County. Judge Oliver

received his degree in Political Science from Eastern Kentucky University in 1985 and went on to Chase Law School where he graduated in 1988. Judge Oliver is looking forward to working with all the many facets of the court system.

Judge Ward was born in Louisville, KY and will serve as judge in the 55th district. Judge Ward attended U of L, where she earned a degree in Political Science in 1983 and also a law degree in 1986. Judge Ward along with a partner was practicing private law for about three years, and also served as Assistant County Attorney for Bullitt County from 1994 to 1996. Judge Ward would like to see several enhancements to the court system including, a wider use of community service, and educating the school system about the judicial system.

Douglas J. Grothaus visited AOC on December 16, 1998. Mr. Grothaus was born in Campbell County and currently lives in Kenton County. Judge Grothaus will preside over cases in the 16th district. Judge Grothaus received his degree in Accounting from Northern Kentucky University in 1984, and his law degree from Chase in 1987. Judge Grothaus has served as Assistant County Attorney for Kenton County, and is a professor of business law at NKU. In his stay on the bench, Judge Grothaus would like to see the usage of the teen court program increased, and reduce the lengths of stay for children in the foster care system.

Also on the 16th of December, **George Washington Davis III** made his way to AOC. Judge Davis III will serve in the 32nd district where he was born. In 1989, Judge Davis III received his degree in Political Science from U of K, and attended the U of K Law School where he obtained his law degree in 1992. Judge Davis III has a long history of government work. He has worked for Senator Blevins in LRC, Judge Venters and

Cain in Somerset, was a City Attorney in Catlettsburg, and a Domestic Relations Commissioner in Boyd County. Judge Davis III said he is ready to get the docket moving, and hopes that the Family Court system is extended statewide to help relieve case loads.

On December 17, 1998 **Robert K. Wiederstein** visited AOC. Judge Wiederstein was born in Louisville and was primarily raised in Indiana. Judge Wiederstein will serve the 51st district, where he was the Assistant County Attorney for three years. Judge Wiederstein attended the small private college of Hanover, where he received his Economics degree in 1990. In 1993, Judge Wiederstein received his law degree from Indiana University. Judge Wiederstein would like to stay in his role as a judge in Henderson County as long as possible, where he, his wife, Cathy, and daughter Meg live.

From AOC to all the newly elected judges and other officials affiliated with the Judicial Branch of government, we would like to say welcome.

John B. Dobson, 1999

A TIME FOR GOODBYES AND HELLO'S

Pretial Services is losing a good friend to retirement.

Mr. Ken Barber and Pretial Services began their journey together on June 19, 1976. Ken, with interviews and pen in hand, took on the task of introducing and educating the people of **Calloway and Marshall** counties to a new way of doing business in Kentucky. Our commonwealth was the first state to outlaw bail bonding for profit and bail bondsmen were fighting to declare their elimination as unconstitutional. In the Kentucky Supreme Court decision rejecting the bail bondsmen's claim, it was written that it was their time to "**go quietly into that good**

night" due to the abuses of the commercial system. It is now Ken's time to do so after demonstrating so clearly that professional public servants, working in the public interest, are in the best interest of the Commonwealth.

Ken is an original member of the Pretial Services organization and a graduate of Murray State University. For twenty-three years the 42nd Judicial Circuit has relied on this gentleman to provide accurate information for bail setting. Ken's voice has been heard, and impacted services, beyond his local efforts. His thoughts were instrumental in the development of the cooperative student relief coverage that gave our twenty-four-hour/seven day a week staff time off. We will all be losing a voice of reason and Ken will be missed. Instead of trudging to the jail Ken and his wife **Joyce** will be traveling this country enjoying their well earned time together.

Mr. John Watt will be replacing Ken Barber in **Marshall and Calloway** counties. As a matter of irony John is a product of our cooperative student program (from Eastern Kentucky University) and began employment in that capacity on June 19, 1998. This program has been the beginning point of many other valuable current employees of our system and we wish John well in his endeavor to continue the fine tradition Ken began.

We are losing another long term resource to our agency in the person of **Ms. Mary Jane Scott**. She has worked in **Marion, Taylor, Green, and Washington** counties providing services since 1979. Mary had the distinction of being one of the first Pretial Officer's that had all of the jails close in her district. She continued her duties by working in conjunction with the Pretial Officer

in Nelson county, where the prisoners from her district were primarily lodged. She demonstrated the flexibility often required by our personnel to meet the needs of the districts across the Commonwealth. As a testament to her foresight I reviewed her original application and neatly marked on the shifts you will work she optimistically marked "Day," but realistically typed "or when necessary." Mary and her husband Larry intend to spend their new found leisure in nurturing their adorable grand child. The "Pretrial Family" wishes them well in this new journey they are undertaking.

We have had another "coming home" experience with the addition of **Ms. Mary Nell Dempsey** to the Pretrial Services Central Office. She began her employment with Pretrial Services in 1984, left to work with **Ms. Rita Cobb** in personnel, and most recently assisting **Mr. Paul Isaacs**. Her primary duties will involve a personnel support role for the two hundred plus employees of Pretrial Services across the state. We are glad to have another "old timer" return to the fold that understands our quirks, culture, and philosophy of public service.

We are also pleased and proud to say HELLO to our new field supervisor **Jeff Biehlich**. Jeff has worked in the 1st Judicial Circuit for the past six years. While those that have viewed Jeff from a distance they might notice his formidable skill at golf - and perhaps thinking he has too much practice to be a "good Pretrial Officer." We of the Pretrial Central Office would like to lay that impression to rest. His work in the First District has been exceptional, his professional demeanor unquestioned, and up to the challenge his new work will present.

Submitted by Melinda Wheeler

STATISTICALLY SPEAKING

STATISTICALLY SPEAKING! In continuance of our last article of "Statistically Speaking", juveniles, in one way or another, are still at the forefront of media coverage. With the latest and most devastating of school shootings in Colorado, juveniles again are under extreme scrutiny. For the purpose of this article, I will focus on juveniles and seasonal crime. The figures represent the Commonwealth of Kentucky only (excluding Jefferson County).

In the Spring and Summer months of 96 and 97, juvenile crime case filings totaled 30,544*. Of the 30,544 cases, 15,725 cases were in 96, and 14,819 in 97, respectively. These numbers reflect a decline of 6.1% from 96 to 97.

Out of these criminal cases, there are 4 charges that remain relatively high in comparison to the others. These charges are Criminal Mischief, Assault in the 4th Degree, Theft by Unlawful Taking-Shoplifting, and Terroristic Threatening.

Summer & Spring FY96

<u>Offense</u>	<u># of Cases</u>
Criminal Mischief	1102
Assault 4 th	722
TBUT-shoplifting	676
Terroristic Threatening	656

Spring & Summer FY97

Criminal Mischief	891
TBUT-shoplifting	719
Assault 4 th	713
Terroristic Threatening	557

For more information, please contact the Division of Research & Statistics, Bonnie Pritchett Embry, Dorothy Scott, Data Entry/Editor, Zelena Brown or John Dobson Administrative Specialist's at AOC.

- * **total of top 20 juvenile crimes only.**
- * **Information gathered from report RS/123.**
- * **For reporting purposes Spring months consist of March 1 to May 31 & Summer months are from June 1 to Aug 31.**

DID YOU KNOW?

- AOC is on the Internet at <http://www.aoc.state.ky.us/>

Where Are They Now!

- **Lisa Grant** is now at the Supreme Court.
- **Mary Nell Dempsey** is in Pretrial Release Services.
- **Amy Smitha** is now in the Foster Care Review Board department.
- **Chris Cecil**, Court Community Relations new position outside of AOC
- **Angie Wright**, Foster Care Review Board left AOC
- **Kim Redmon**, Juvenile Services moved to Personnel
- **Michael Cornwall**, Foster Care Review Board left AOC
- **Kathy Peach**, Foster Care Review Board move to the Director's Office
- **Michael Pack**, new manager of Education

Retirees Row

- **Michael Jordan**, IS
- **John Kilkenny**, Budget
- **Linda Bottoms**, Court Services
- **Rita Culbertson**, Education
- **Glenda Ockerman**, Court Services

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Their will be a retirement banquet for Robert F. Stephens

- Date: May 21, 1999
- Time: 6 PM
- Place: Headley-Whitney Museum

See your manager for further details.

The AOC Newsletter is compiled by:

Rachel Bingham, Court Community Relations

Lisa Broaddus, Juvenile Services

John Dobson, Research & Statistics

Carole Henderson, Budget & Program Review

Billy Stover, Court Community Relations

Humor For You!

Excuses For When you're caught napping on the job...

- "The people at the blood bank told me this might happen."
- "I was just trying out that 15-minute power nap they recommended at that management seminar you sent me to."
- "I realize you think I was sleeping, but I was actually meditating on our mission statement."
- "Someone must have put decaf in the regular pot."
- "Amen."

Insert from the March 1999 issue of Communication Briefings.

News Flash!

Fayette Court Circuit Judge James E. Keller was appointed to the Supreme Court to fill the void left by the retiring Chief Justice on May 6, 1999. Judge Keller will serve as the Justice for the 5th Appellate District.

*If you have any announcements or articles which you would like to place in the next edition of the AOC Newsletter, please send them to **John Dobson** by July 1, 1999.*